

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 1430

STADIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y TEXT PARAS 1 & 4

FOR AF ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS PFOR SG

SUBJECT: SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR SENEGAL: CONUS TRAINING

REF: A) 76 DAKAR 7970, B) 76 DAKAR 8249

1. SUMMARY. SENEGALESE DISPOSITION TOWARD EXPANDED COOPERATION WITH US HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY EVIDENT DURING PAST YEAR IN WAKE OF ANGOLAN EVENTS AND STEPPED-UP PACE OF BILATERAL CONSULTATION. IMPULSE TOWARD CLOSE COOPERATION ENCOMPASSES SECURITY CONCERNS, AS INDICATED BY CONTINUING SUCCESS OF IN-COUNTRY US-SPONSORED ENGLISH TRAINING FOR MILITARY AND BY OUTSTANDING SENEGALESE REQUEST FOR ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT. LANGUAGE PROGRAM HAS FORESEEN SENDING OF ONE OR TWO SENEGALESE MILITARY TO COURSES IN CONUS, BUT GOS NOW REPORTEDLY PLANS TO SEEK ADDITIONAL US SPACES FOR PILOT TRAINING AND FOR ENGINEERING, LOGISTIC MANAGEMENT AND LIMITED OTHER COURSES. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING GUIDANCE ON GENERAL US POLICIES WHICH WILL DETERMINE OUR ABILITY TO BE RESPONSIVE TO ANTICIPATED SENEGALESE REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

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WM SENEGALESE DISPOSITION TOWARD EXPANDED COOPERATION WITH U.S. HAS BEEN IN INCREASING EVIDENCE OVER PABW YEAR. THERE HAS BEEN EVIDENT SENEGALESE EFFORT TO PLAY MORE CONSISTENT MODERATING ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA AND BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO AMERICAN INTERESTS ON POLITICAL LEVEL. SENEGALESE OPENING TOWARD US WAS STIMULATED BY LOCAL CONCERN OVER SUCH RECENT AFRICAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AS ANGOLA AND DANGER TO SENEGAL

PERCEIVED IN SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. ROUND OF CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING 1976 NOURPEHED SENEGALESE RECEPTIVITY TOWARD COOPERATION WITH US. CURRENT POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD US ALSO REFLECTS CONVERGENCE OF OTHER FACTORS INCLUDING PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S STRONG INTEREST IN PROMOTING TIES TO BLACK COMMUNITIES OUTSIDE AFRICA FOR CULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL PURPOSES, AND MORE GENERAL EFFMNT TO DIVERSIFY GRADUALLY DEPENDENCE ON FRANCE AS PRIMARY TRADING AND INVESTMENT PARTNER.

3. IMPULSE TOWARD INCREASED COOPERATION HAS ENCOMPASSED SECURITY CONCERNS, WHERE MAJOR DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN SENEGAL'S 1976 REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE IN REPLACING OBSOLETE ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT FOR CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS. SENEGALESE HAVE ALSO ATTACHED HIGH SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE TO VISITS BY US NAVAL VESSELS SUCH AS FEBRUARY 10-12 VISIT BY USS JONAS INGRAM (DAKAR 1137). SIMULTANEOUSLY, US-SPONSORED IN-COUNTRY ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SENEGALESE MILITARY HAS PROVIDED USEFUL VEHICLE FOR MAINTAINING AND DEVELOPING BILATERAL CONTACTS. CONTINUING PROGRAM HAS ESTABLISHED POOL OF NEARLY 100 OFFICER AND NCO GRADUATES WITH BASIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAPABILITY. AS NOTED IN 1976 PAPRA PAPER, THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN REGARDED AS PROBABLE STEPPING STONE TOWARD COMMENCEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRINING IN US. PROJECTED BUDGETS HAVE ENVISAGED SENDING OF ONE OR TWO STUDENTS FROM SENEGALESE MILITARY TO 27-WEEK ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR COURSE IN CONUS (FIRST STUDENT ENROLLED UNDER THIS PROGRAM DEPARTS SENEGAL FOR US MARCH 20).

4. AS INDICATED REFTELS, EMBASSY CONTACTS IN MILITARY HAVE
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TOLD US INFORMALLY THAT GOS IS FORMULATING REQUEST FOR LARGER NUMBER OF TRAINING SPACES IN US. INDICATIONS ARE THAT PRIMARY SENEGALESE CONCERN IS PILOT TRAINING, WITH SECONDARY INTEREST IN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, ADVANCED OFFICERS' COURSES FOR ARMY ENGINEERS AND OTHER BRANCHES, LOGISTIC MANAGEMENT AND NAVAL STAFF COURSE. SENEGALESE SEE INCREASED CONSUS TRAINING AS ADVISABLE IN VIEW OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF NEW US ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT AND AS NATURAL COMPLEMENT OF INCREASED COOPERATION TAKING PLACE IN OTHER SECTORS OF BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES US SHOULD BE PREPARED TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO SENEGALESE INTEREST IN INCREASED CONUS TRAINING SPACES. IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH A REQUEST, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING GENERAL INDICATION OF CURRENT US POLICIES WHICH WILL SHAPE OUR DECISION ON THIS QUESTION, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS AVAILABILITY TRAINING ON GRANT BASIS.
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